

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37 are pending. Claims 20-37 are allowed. Claims 9, 18 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the trigger assembly of this embodiment is slidable between at least a deployed position and a non-deployed retracted position. Support is found throughout the specification, for example, in Fig. 1, showing an embodiment having a trigger in a non-deployed position, and in paragraphs [0011] and [0020]. No new matter is added.

Claim 1 is also amended to clarify that the trigger is substantially fully recessed into the handle in the non-deployed position. Support is again found in Fig. 1, showing an embodiment having a substantially fully recessed trigger, and in paragraph [0020], which describes a trigger face stowed in the handle as providing either little interference or no interference to the use of the projectile weapon as a baton. By providing minimal interference, the recessed trigger face is substantially fully recessed in this embodiment. No new matter is added.

Claims 18 and 29 are amended to add a colon after the term “comprising.”

The rejection of claims 1-8 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,722,148 to Walker is respectfully traversed. “To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.” MPEP § 2131. In the present case, Walker fails to achieve this standard.

Walker teaches a firearm having a trigger assembly. As described at column 4, line 64 – column 5, line 66, the trigger is fully recessed into the handle only when the trigger activates the firing mechanism. Thus, the trigger is fully recessed only when the trigger is in its deployed configuration.

In contrast, amended claims 1-8 call for a trigger to be substantially fully recessed when the trigger is in a non-deployed position. This is the opposite of the trigger of Walker, which is fully recessed only in an active, deployed position. As such, Walker fails to teach or suggest all elements of claims 1-8. Accordingly, claims 1-8 are not anticipated.

The rejection of claims 10-17 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,463,688 to Idehara is respectfully traversed.

Claims 10-17 call for a reverser mechanism that is coupled to a trigger and adapted to actuate a firing mechanism. As described at paragraph [0038] of the specification, a reverser mechanism reverses the rearward motion of a trigger into a forward motion appropriate for actuating a firing mechanism. In contrast, Idehara does not describe or even discuss a reverser mechanism. Rather, Idehara teaches a mechanism in which a trigger is moved forward to provide a forward motion appropriate for actuating a firing mechanism.

According to Idehara, a trigger mechanism 102 comprises a base 112 and a trigger 114 (col. 11, ln. 43-45). The trigger mechanism 102 is securely coupled to a holder 100 (col. 11, ln. 56-60). The holder 100 is adapted to push a tubular stop 98 for triggering the firing mechanism 66 (col. 11, ln. 4-6). As part of this process, the holder 100 pushes the tubular stop 98 forward, which in turn pulls a slidable member 96 forward (col. 11, ln. 36-41). Pushing the slidable member 96 forward causes a firing pin to activate, resulting in an explosive discharge (col. 12, ln. 14-48). Thus, the holder 100, the tubular stop 98 and the slidable member 96 all move forward to actuate the firing mechanism.

As Idehara points out at column 3, lines 37-41, the trigger plate is pushed forward during firing. Because base 112 of the trigger mechanism is securely coupled to holder 100 by a bolt 104 (col. 11, ln. 56-59), forward movement of the trigger causes the holder 100, the tubular stop 98 and the slidable member 96 to move forward, ultimately leading to activation of the firing mechanism 66. This is completely different that the workings of a reverser mechanism in which backward movement of a trigger leads to forward movement that results in activation of the firing mechanism. Thus, Idehara fails to teach or suggest a reverser mechanism as called for in claims 10-17. Because all claim elements are neither taught nor suggested by Idehara, claims 10-17 are not anticipated.

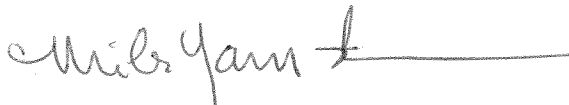
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant hereby submits a request for a one month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees required with this one month extension to Deposit Account No. 50-0337.

The Commissioner is also hereby authorized during prosecution of this application to charge any fees that may be required (except for patent issue fees required under 37 CFR §1.18) or to credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0337. If a further extension of time is required in connection with this paper, please consider this a Petition therefor and charge any fees required to Deposit Account No. 50-0337.

Dated: August 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Miles Yamanaka", followed by a horizontal line.

Miles Yamanaka
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